

REMARKS

Claims 23-33 and 41-61 are pending in the subject application. A listing of all claims is at pages 2-9. Claims 23, 41-42, and 52-53 have been amended herein. It is submitted that the amendments place the subject application in condition for allowance.

In particular, independent claim 23 recites **embedding** and **isolating** one or more electrical resistance members **within** a wafer, wherein resistance values of respective isolated members are gathered and analyzed to facilitate determining wafer characteristics of a CMP process. Moore does not contemplate embedding or isolating one or more electrical resistance members within a wafer as recited in the subject claim. Rather, Moore discloses utilizing **a conductive layer** (layer 713) formed proximate (not embedded or isolated within) a substrate. This conductive layer is connected to an ohm meter, wherein resistance changes in the layer are detected and utilized to determine when planarization is complete and/or associated planarization parameters.

Independent claim 41 recites **isolating a plurality** of electrical resistance members **within disparate layers** of a wafer and **coupling** such members to form an individual electrical resistance entity across the disparate layers, wherein a CMP process is controlled via an analysis of resistance information associated with the plurality of electrical resistance members. Moore is silent regarding employing a plurality of electrical resistance members, isolating such members, forming such members within disparate layers, and/or coupling such members to form a single entity. As described *supra*, Moore discloses utilizing a resistance measurement of a conductive layer proximate a substrate to determine planarization completeness and parameters.

Independent claim 52 recites forming at least a **first** and **second** electrical resistance members in **different directions within a layer** of a wafer, wherein these electrical resistance members are electrically **isolated** from each other. Moore does not disclose such aspects as described *supra*.

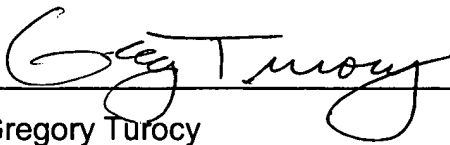
Favorable consideration in light of the amendments and above remarks is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN & TUROCY, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Turocy", is written over a horizontal line.

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